

ACORN

The Journal of The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario



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The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario

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Incorporated in 1933 to preserve buildings and structures of architectural merit and places of natural beauty or interest



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Cover:

Eden Mills Bowstring Bridge, demolished 1998

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From the Editor



Not far from my farmhouse in Southwestern Ontario stands a rusty, single lane steel truss bridge now over 90 years old. One hundred and thirty-two feet long, it carries a gravel road across the upper reaches of the Thames River some 30 miles northeast of London and just a mile from the spot where the Avon River joins the Thames.

A local landmark in a bucolic landscape, the bridge bears a name remarkable even in a part of the province where almost all the names seem to be British in origin. Trafalgar Bridge was christened one evening late in 1905, the centennial year of the famous battle.

At the time the structure had just

Canada Company. Based in the far-away London with directors who never set foot in this country, the Canada Company was responsible for opening up this whole area of Ontario to settlement in the early and mid-19th century.

Before 1905 there was only a ford at the site. Earlier that year, neighbouring farmers, some of whom owned land on both sides of the river, petitioned the County Council for a bridge. In gratitude for the favourable and prompt response, one Thomas Standaen feted the council and friends on the day they came to inspect the new structure. The local Stratford newspaper described a "sumptuous banquet" featuring "oysters and other good things."

It was on this happy occasion, in a gesture typical of the patriotism of the period, that the bridge received its name. One of the Edwardian councilors commemorated the event in a long poem (also typical of the period).

*They talked of history and campaign
Of Nelson routing on the main,
The combined fleets of France and Spain,
On fair Trafalgar Bay.*

This venerable bridge today is neglected and in bad shape. It is

*Forsooth it was a lively night,
Long to be remembered with delight,
When County Council did unite,
To name Trafalgar Bridge.*

Our surviving bridge heritage is under constant threat. In most cases short-sighted public authorities, combined with weak legislation and policies, pose the greatest threat to the historic bridges that grace our communities. Take the sorry case of the Eden Mills Bowstring Bridge (see article and cover photo in this issue). There Township of Eramosa Council did unite...ultimately to destroy this heritage landmark.

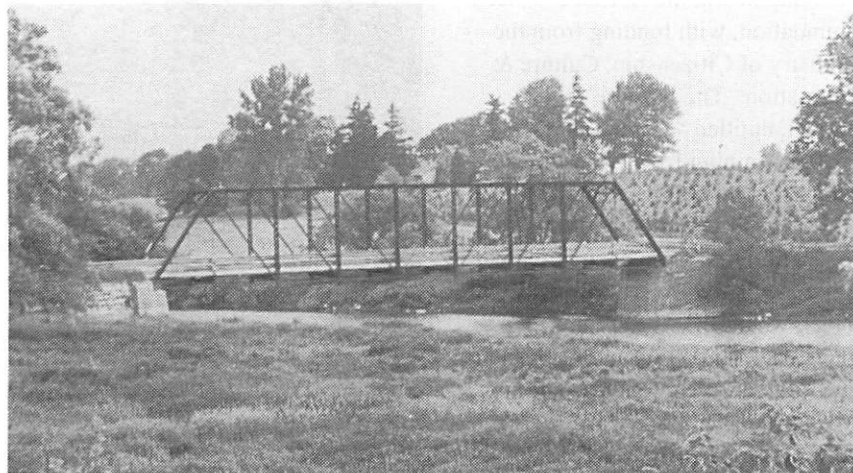
Dan Schneider ☞

President's Message

This year the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario is celebrating its 65th anniversary! We are indebted to Eric Arthur and his colleagues, who together founded the Conservancy in 1933 to advocate the protection and conservation of our architectural and landscape heritage. We recognize as well the many men and women who over the decades have contributed so much to building the ACO — a proud organization with many innovative programs and activities devoted to the appreciation and preservation of our significant structures and sites.

It is both an honour and a challenge to serve as your President at this time. I succeed A.K. Sculthorpe who has awed us all with energy, enthusiasm, creativity and leadership during her recent two years as President. It is gratifying — as well as reassuring for me personally — to know that A.K. continues to be close at hand as Past President and as Chair of the 1998 Fundraising Campaign.

I look forward to working with Executive and Council members, the Consulting Heritage Manager, the Advisory Board, the ACORN Editor and the many volunteers at the branch



Trafalgar Bridge, Perth County. Photo: Dan Schneider

been completed at a point where three townships meet. Fullarton, Downie and Blanshard, like other localities in Perth and adjacent counties, get their names from the directors of the

doubtful whether it will survive until its own centenary in 2005. If it does, and I do, I plan to organize a party to celebrate the occasion and echo those long-ago festivities.

and provincial levels who give of their time and resources to see our projects through to success.

While we have accomplished much in the last 65 years, many opportunities and challenges await us. In facing these we must not ignore the advantages of working with our conservationist colleagues in the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation, the Heritage Alliance, Community Heritage Ontario and other organizations. Currently, for example, we are collaborating with the Ontario Heritage Foundation and Heritage Canada in the "Street Smarts" program (see update in this issue of ACORN).

The ACO Executive and Council invite you to reserve November 14, 1998 to celebrate two anniversaries. During the day the ACO and University College Alumni will present an Eric Arthur Colloquium to mark the centenary of the birth of Eric Arthur. (Also don't miss the exhibition on Eric Arthur Retrospective, curated by Alec Keefer, at Toronto's Market Gallery this fall.) That evening we hold our 65th Anniversary Gala Dinner at historic St. Lawrence Hall in Toronto. It should be quite the occasion — I look forward to seeing you there.

Until then, have a pleasant summer and fall.

Mary Angela Tucker ☪

Council News

GALA DINNER '98

Our 65th Anniversary and 3rd Annual Fundraising Dinner will be held at historic St. Lawrence Hall on Saturday, November 14th. This year the Dinner is part of the centenary celebrations of Professor Eric Arthur, a founding member of the ACO. As our speaker for the evening, we have been most fortunate to secure Bruce Kuwabara of the architectural firm Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg, which is

currently supervising renovations to Toronto City Hall in preparation for its new role as headquarters for the megacity. To obtain tickets see the notice in this issue.

ERIC ARTHUR CENTENARY

An exhibition of Eric Arthur's work curated by Alec Keefer will open on October 31st at the Market Gallery in the St. Lawrence Market, Toronto, and will run to March 8th, 1999. Alec has been working for over a year in coordination with the City of Toronto Archives to put together this rare viewing of Arthur's drawings and plans. In addition, on Saturday November 14th the ACO, the University of Toronto and the University College Alumni Association will convene a one-day colloquium at University College. Alec cites the wonderful cooperation of the Arthur family in this ambitious venture, and the generous assistance of the staff at the City of Toronto Archives and the Special Collections Room of the Toronto Reference Library.

TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION PROJECT

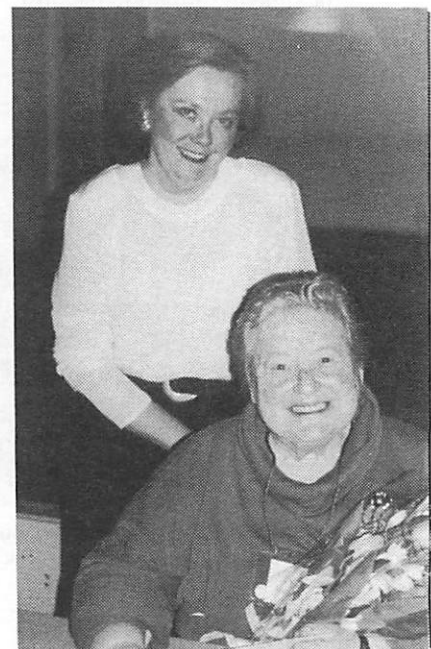
This is a joint venture between the ACO, the Ontario Heritage Foundation and the Heritage Canada Foundation, with funding from the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture & Recreation. The purpose of the project, entitled "Street Smarts," is to provide training for citizens in selected communities to assist them in managing built heritage for the regeneration of town centres. Street Smarts evolved from the Town Centre Video which the ACO produced a few years back and which has been shown at a number of conferences and workshops. Heritage Canada's Ontario office will manage and coordinate the project, with the ACO represented by Alec Keefer and A. K. Sculthorpe on the executive team and Bob Fair on the working team. *[For more on Street Smarts see article in this issue.]*

REFERRAL SYSTEM FOR VACANT HERITAGE PROPERTIES AT RISK

Alan Seymour, a member of the Advisory Board, has come up with a plan to match sellers of heritage properties with suitable buyers. He says the idea arose when he read of the odd pairing of a derelict castle in England with Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario and wondered how this came about. It occurred to him that while the print media vary widely in circulation, an enormous potential exists in the new technology of the Internet. The Executive are pursuing his proposal that the ACO establish a web site on which endangered properties can be listed. *[For more on this idea, see Alan Seymour's article in this issue.]* ☪

1998 ACO Conference

About 70 ACO members, including lay people, architects and heritage consultants, from all over the province travelled to the ACO's annual General Meeting and Conference held in Toronto on April 17-19.



Incoming and outgoing Presidents Mary Angela Tucker and A.K. Sculthorpe at the AGM. Photo: Dan Schneider

The weekend event started with the Annual General Meeting on the Friday night. On the agenda was the nomination and election of the new provincial ACO Executive. **Mary Angela Tucker** of Chatham was voted in as the new President, replacing **A.K. Sculthorpe**, who takes up the post of Past President. Other items included special programs and projects, including an update on the revision of the current provincial by-laws. (Note that audited ACO financial statements for the year ending December 31, 1997, which were not available in time for the meeting, can now be obtained from head office. Full minutes of the AGM will appear in the Winter '99 issue of ACORN.)

The Conference began Saturday morning at the Swansea Town Hall with a welcome and remarks from the new President, Mary Angela Tucker, and from Conference Chair **Mary Glendinning**.

This year's conference featured nine presentations, described below, related to the theme of masonry and its conservation.

TERRA COTTA RESTORATION

Laurie Wells, a partner in Summit Restoration Ltd., was the first speaker. Architectural terra cotta was a popular building material in North America at the turn of the century. Those buildings are now reaching a critical stage in their life span where maintenance and restoration are required. Ms. Wells has worked on a number of landmark terra cotta buildings across Canada. Some of the projects she highlighted were the CHUM/City TV Building, Toronto; the Hiram Walker/Allied Vintners Head Office, Walkerville (Windsor); the Hope and Saxe Buildings, Sparks Street, Ottawa; and the PUC Building in Thunder Bay.

MORTARS FOR CONSERVATION — GETTING IT RIGHT ON SITE

Keith Blades, an architectural conservation specialist, began his talk with a discussion of historic mortars. Many buildings in Ontario have



Keith Blades and Pam Craig examine a model demonstrating proper tombstone repair. Photo: Dan Schneider

mortars and exterior plasters dating to the 19th century that are still performing well. These weak permeable lime mortars and renders have demonstrated that they can be well-suited to long-term preservation of buildings, even in a climate as harsh as Ontario's.

When remedial work is required to these structures, modern materials are often specified, such as Portland cement, which behaves completely differently than traditional mortars, causing short-term durability but long-term degradation of our stock of heritage buildings. Mr. Blades drew on examples from the 18th to the 20th centuries in Ontario and dwelt on how to "get it right," based on the re-introduction of traditional materials, techniques and understanding.

COMMON REPAIRS OF HISTORIC TOMBSTONES

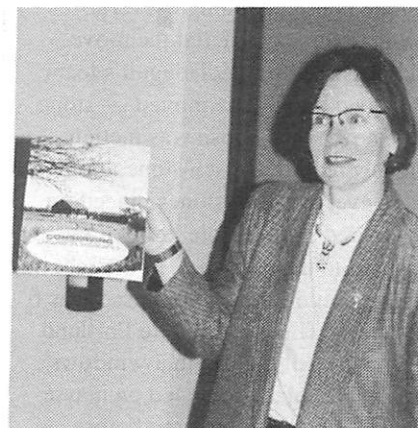
Pamela Craig, Manager of Heritage Properties and Museum Programs with the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation, introduced the Ministry's recent publication, *Landscapes of Memories — A Guide for Conserving Historic Cemeteries*. Mr. Blades then reviewed the repair techniques for tombstones as seen in this important guide.

BIFURCATION BETWEEN THE TRADES AND THE PROFESSIONS

Gus Butterfield, Administrative Director of the Guild Institute of Stone and Restoration Masonry, reviewed the history of stone structures with design features and how they should be maintained. Division between tradespeople and architects and other professionals has often resulted in the use of inappropriate and damaging repair techniques. Mr. Butterfield warned against "quick fixes" and "easy answers" in masonry work and emphasized the need to understand the complexity of the subject before taking action.

ADAPTIVE RE-USE

Architect **Alan Seymour** kick-started the afternoon with a presentation of his restoration of the Zion Primitive Methodist Church in Toronto (formerly North York). The City of North York acquired the simple four-bay, red brick, Gothic Revival church in 1971 and it was left vacant for 26 years. Mr. Seymour was retained to restore the building and convert it for use as a community arts and cultural facility. Because the church had no facilities (washrooms, etc.), he added a "tail" to the back. This addition takes the form of the church but is on a smaller scale. Paying homage to the Gothic Revival style, it uses board-and-batten siding, which also differentiates it as a new



1998 Conference Chair Mary Glendinning shows off a copy of *Conserving Ontario's Landscapes*, the proceedings of the 1997 conference. Photo: Dan Schneider



Bob and A.K. Sculthorpe at Saturday night's banquet.
Photo: Mary Angela Tucker

element. What unites the old and the new are the new cedar shingle roofs. The church itself also had to undergo considerable repair because of moisture penetration in its walls, but the finished result is an unusual and successful re-use.

MOVING STONE

John McDougall, an instructor at Algonquin College of Applied Arts and Technology, told the tale of moving a stone house located near the Mississippi River in Eastern Ontario. Many older buildings, usually of log or wood, are being saved by moving them to a new site. The challenge here was to move a Gothic Revival stone house. Although several contractors considered the move impossible, Mr. McDougall's team decided it could be moved — stone by stone. The house was meticulously recorded, each stone numbered, and every wall of stones placed on coloured skids before being transported to the new site. In the rebuilding, the mortar mix ratio used was 6 (sand): 2 (lime): ½ (white Portland cement). All the original windows were left intact, removed en masse and cleaned and repaired before reinstallation. With a few minor changes (a new window and fireplace) the house was revived and rebuilt, a testament to the ingenuity

and patience of dedicated professionals.

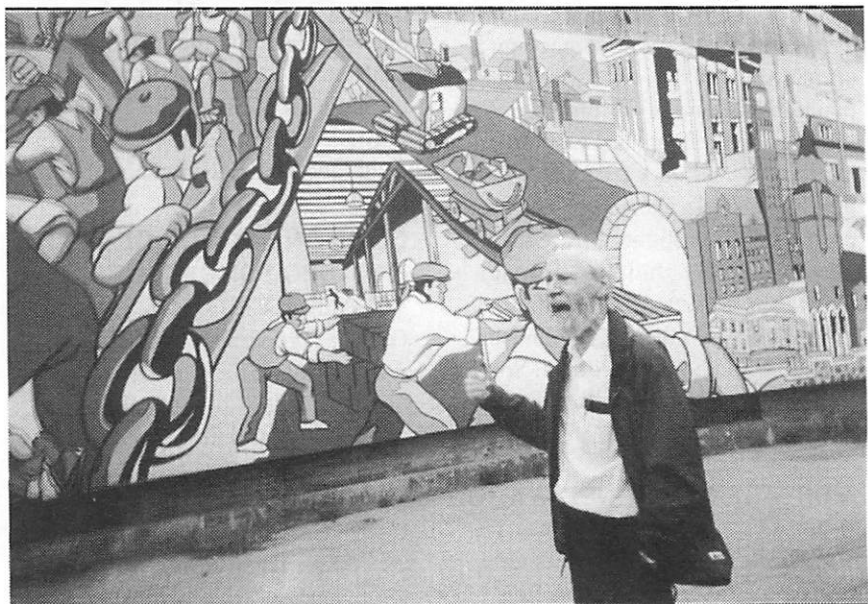
THE EXTRACTION INDUSTRY ALONG GARRISON CREEK

During the 19th century, Garrison Creek in Toronto provided clay for brickmaking and sand for construction work. Brickyards and sand pits dating from this time were very substantial and had a major impact on the urban landscape. **Jon Harstone**, housing consultant, explained how the various sizes of brickyards, ranging from the travelling brickyards which

built temporary kilns on the project site to full-size brickyards, shaped the fabric of the urban neighbourhoods introduced after the brickyards declined. Areas such as Christie Pits (at Bloor and Christie Streets), which had very sandy soils, were left with large depressions in the ground. This explains why, when the area was developed for housing, a house might be built six feet lower than the adjacent house. This phenomenon can be found throughout the area.

PICTURESQUE DESIRE

The Gothic Revival style, informed by a desire for the picturesque, developed out of a reaction to 19th century industrialization and capitalism. **Donalda Badone**, author and researcher, explored the Gothic Revival in 19th century architecture and the reason why polychrome brickwork was a feature of that style. John Ruskin, the leader of the picturesque movement in Victorian England wanted to "recreate the same qualities as nature...in short, beauty." Polychromatic brickwork, appearing on such building as St. Pancras Station in London, was one solution. Much brick construction developed as a result of municipal fire regulations. Ms Badone also explored the primitive conditions of early brickyards, which become increasingly more



Tour guide Ed Freeman in front of a mural at the Toronto Brick Works.
Photo: Mary Glendinning

sophisticated in later 19th century Ontario. The Hamilton Brick Works, a survivor of that time, has some original kilns and is one of the last independent brickmakers.

HIDDEN DISASTERS

Architect **Chris Borgal**, the last speaker, gave an entertaining presentation on the various disasters that can befall buildings. Dividing his talk into sections of Earth, Air, Fire and Water, and aided by copious examples, Mr. Borgal spoke about problems ranging from the build-up of salts on masonry (which can lead to the deterioration of structural components), to heat loss at masonry joints, to roofing systems accidentally torched through the construction process, and to corrosion of steel beams from condensation. At St. Paul's Cathedral in London a number of years ago the iron rods which hold the stone finials of the central tower in place had expanded due to the infiltration of condensation. The expansion caused large radial cracks in the finials. During his investigations, Mr. Borgal, safely ensconced in the cab of a crane, managed to catch the finials before they fell, averting a potential disaster to passers-by.

On Sunday there were two guided tours.

QUEEN STREET WEST TOUR

About 20 people took the tour on Queen Street West lead by architect **Phillip Carter** on Sunday morning. The tour started at the famous Campbell house at the corner of University Avenue and Queen Street — a house dwarfed by the neighbouring Canada Life Building. Mr. Carter's descriptions of the three-storey commercial streetscape gave participants a chance to better understand the development of this now vibrant neighbourhood.

DON VALLEY BRICK WORKS TOUR

The Don Valley Brickyard started in 1888 and remained in operation until 1991. **Ed Freeman**, a geologist and author of "Toronto's Geological

Past," briefly discussed the history of the site and led a tour of the quarries and surviving buildings. The tour included an on-site demonstration of mortar mixing by **Mark Plewman** of Liner Rolpanit.

Special thanks to Mary Glendinning and the Toronto Branch for a well-organized and successful weekend.

Alison Brown and Dan Schneider 20

The Fight to Save the Eden Mills Bridge

by Chris Wilson

Host Peter Gzowski wonders aloud "What is it about bridges anyway?" Three guests in different parts of Canada are on his Morningside radio program comparing stories of trying to get politicians to see why the small heritage bridges in their communities should not be demolished to be replaced with bigger and wider bridges.

One of the bridges being discussed is in Eden Mills, not far from Guelph, Ontario. The local municipal council in May of 1998 voted to rescind the designation by-law recognizing the heritage value of the single lane concrete Bowstring bridge [see cover photo]. The council intends to replace it with a two lane bridge to handle more traffic. A majority of the residents of the scenic hamlet have taken the matter to court in an attempt to prevent this. The challenge is to transfer their emotional attachment to an entity of concrete and steel into a "concrete" answer to not only the question posed by Gzowski but also for the politicians who ultimately decide the fate of our communities' heritage structures.

So what is it about the Bowstring in Eden Mills? It was built in 1912 to a design by a local artisan who had emigrated from Italy where he had

learned about the magic properties of "liquid stone" ("Charlie" Mattaini eventually created 36 bowstring bridges throughout Wellington County, along with more than 20 other structures.) Following a provincial Conservation Review Board hearing in February 1991, the Eden Mills Bowstring was designated a heritage bridge under the Ontario Heritage Act. The Chair of the Board, Michael Vaughan, concluded that the single-lane bridge must be preserved in order to maintain the scale and harmony of this historic community.

In July 1994, the Grand River Watershed was declared a Canadian Heritage River. The local politicians signed the *Grand Strategy* document, which pledges to preserve the watershed's "abundant heritage features...of outstanding Canadian significance." The Eden Mills bridge, crossing the Eramosa River, a tributary of the Grand, is recognized as part of that commitment.

When the Township of Eramosa declared its intention to de-designate the Bowstring, it triggered another Conservation Review Board hearing, this one lasting for three days. In April of this year the CRB recommended that the designation not be removed and also found Eramosa's decision to be at variance with the Township's own Official Plan. Part of the evidence presented was a report by planner and bridge historian David Cuming. Among Cuming's conclusions: **"If the Eden Mills bridge had been located in the United States it is not unreasonable to assume that it would have been assigned to the National Register of Historic Places; and "...the Eden Mills span is of provincial, national and international heritage interest as an early example and rare survivor of concrete bowstring truss construction."**

There is no contesting the heritage worth of the bridge. But some bureaucrats and engineers argue that a one lane bridge is not safe in this era when we no longer drive Model-T's and trucks are big and

heavy. Part of the preservationist's challenge is to try to convey the feeling of those living in the proximity of narrow heritage bridges — the feeling of comfort given by human scale projects and of safety. In its eight decades of existence on the only road through Eden Mills the narrow Bowstring has had *one* recorded accident, and it involved a single vehicle.

Jan Gehl is professor of Urban Planning at the Royal Academy of Arts, Copenhagen, winner of the Prize for Excellence in Town Planning. After a visit to Eden Mills, Professor Gehl wrote: "Some believe that the narrowness of the Bowstring Bridge makes it a safety hazard. This opinion is mistaken. Replacing the Eden Mills Bowstring by a wider bridge would at one stroke make the main street of the village significantly more dangerous than it now is. It goes without saying that the Bowstring should be preserved."

Peter Bosselman is co-author of the American Institute of Transport Engineers *Handbook on Residential Streets*, with awards for urban design plans for Toronto, New York and San Francisco. After several days on business in Eden Mills, Bosselman wrote that "while engineers had believed that wide roads passing through a town were automatically safer, the belief is now wholly discredited...the result (many studies have shown) is faster traffic and reduced safety."

It is the very charm and scale of Eden Mills which makes it such a magnet each September for the thousands of people who come to mingle with writers like Michael Ondaatje, Carol Shields and Margaret Atwood in an intimate outdoor setting at the Eden Mills Writers' Festival. The organizers are saying that the replacement of the Bowstring with a modern bridge 14 feet wider "would break the spirit of the town;" and "who would want to invite someone to someplace ugly?"

Heritage architect Jeffrey Stinson nicely links heritage and culture. Professor Stinson is an expert on the

construction of Toronto's rehabilitated Bloor Street Viaduct, a landmark setting used in Ondaatje's novel *In the Skin of a Lion*. In assessing the Bowstring, Stinson writes: "Although from the perspective of a government official at Queen's Park this bridge may seem small and distant, it is of greater importance to this locale than the much larger bridges over the Don Valley are to the Toronto community, which interacts with them in less significant ways."

Chris Wilson is the Secretary of The Friends of Eden Mills, Inc.

[Editor's postscript: As Mr. Wilson notes, in a last-ditch effort to save the bridge, The Friends of Eden Mills, Inc. challenged the Township of Eramosa's decisions to de-designate the bridge and to proceed with its demolition and replacement. At a two-day Divisional Court hearing in Milton in mid-June the Friends, represented by Toronto lawyers George Rust d'Eye and Sue Metcalfe, argued that the decisions of the Township violated the requirements of the Ontario Heritage Act, the Planning Act, the Environmental Assessment Act, and the Municipal Act.

On June 19 the Court denied the Friends' application for judicial review of the council's decisions. The bridge was demolished on June 22.] ☛

Branch Reports

HERITAGE CAMBRIDGE

Walking tours of Cambridge figured largely in the last few months, yet again. We now have five booklets: Hespeler, Blair, Preston and Galt, and one driving/cycling tour. That represents a lot of inventory! The booklets are available for sale at Book Express at the Cambridge Centre Mall and Southworks Antique Market. Guided tours of Galt and Preston (new this summer!) will leave from the Library & Gallery in Galt (at Queen's Square) and Preston (on King Street) at 2:00 pm Saturdays until Labour Day.

The Blair Heritage Conservation District Study is almost complete and will go to City Council for approval in July. The residents of Blair have been part of the process and all are to be commended for their part in the development of the District Plan.

The next conservation district study to be launched will be the Dickson Hill Study on the west side of Galt. This covers a large area with many properties involved, and is slated to begin after the Blair study is complete. Heritage Cambridge is considering providing some financial assistance for research into this area and has been in contact with the LACAC coordinator and the Waterloo Region Heritage Foundation to start discussions.

The House Tour in April was sold out again — thanks to Sheila O'Donovan who chaired the committee. It was a perfect day!

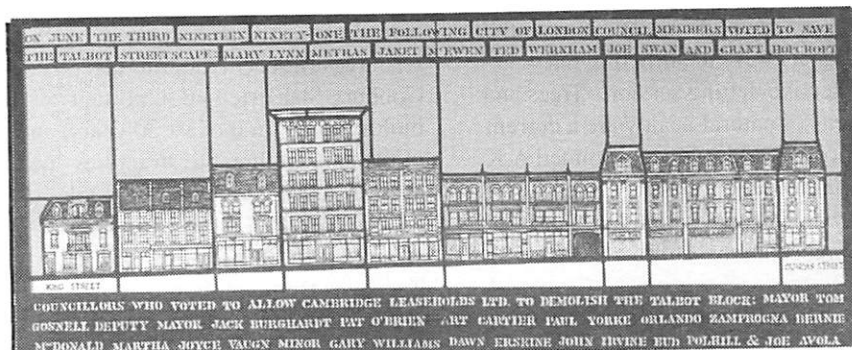
Kathryn McGarry ☛

LONDON REGION BRANCH

Talbot Streetscape in Stained Glass

In February 1998, the London Region Branch of the ACO purchased the stained glass window depicting the Talbot Streetscape designed by local stained glass artist Ted Goodden. The window, which depicts the streetscape as it stood before it was demolished in 1991, was purchased to keep the window in the public eye and serve as a civic reminder, so we can help prevent such drastic events from happening in future. Based on the architectural drawings of the streetscape by the late Herb Craig, the window also poignantly lists the names of the council members who voted for and against the demolition of the buildings in 1991.

George Sinclair, ACO member, deserves much of the credit for leading the fundraising drive. Through his efforts, the London Region Branch was able to raise enough money — mainly by private donations — to purchase the window.



Talbot Street Memorial Window, by Ted Goodden, based on a drawing by Herb Craig

The Urban League of London has also been involved through the production of postcards depicting the window. They are now available for sale from both the Urban League and the London Region Branch of the ACO. The window is currently hanging in the storefront window of C. Johnson Bookseller at 623 Richmond Street in London.

Geranium Walk

Sunday June 7, 1998 marked the 25th Anniversary of our annual Geranium Walk, an architectural tour with "fine homes on view." To celebrate, our walk revisited the site of the original walk — Woodfield, the central London residential district bounded by Adelaide, Richmond and Dundas Streets and the CPR tracks. Most of the houses on the walk are within the East Woodfield Heritage Conservation District, London's only designated Heritage Conservation District.

The Woodfield area started its association with London as open country in 1855. The name derives from the name of a house built in

1839 by Reverend Benjamin Cronyn. The house, situated north of Dundas Street near Adelaide, was given to Hume Blake Cronyn (a relative of the actor Hume Cronyn) and his bride in 1892, who called it Woodfield. It was not until the 1970s that this name was revived and used to describe the area.

The walk featured a wealth of architectural styles including Italianate, Queen Anne and Tudor Revival. Bishop Cronyn Memorial Anglican Church, a Gothic Revival church with beautiful bichromatic brickwork, marked the start of the walk. The original paneled ceiling in the church is currently being uncovered beneath a layer of acoustic tiles. The first house on the tour was an Italianate two-storey brick house, originally built and owned by the Rowland family of London.

Across the street a 1½ storey wood frame Gothic Ontario farmhouse displayed an unexpected elegance in the designs of the inlaid floor patterns. The next house, a brick Ontario cottage owned by London artist Tom Benner, was one of the first built in the area.

The next four houses were good examples of Queen Anne and Arts and Crafts styles. Both Arts and Crafts houses were designed by partners of the London architectural firm of Moore and Munro. The last house, a semi-detached, was an interesting example of the transition from Queen Anne to Edwardian and featured an original skylight soaring two storeys above the main floor staircase! About 400 people turned out to view these spectacular homes in sunny but cool weather.



23 Peter Street — once known as the Rowland house

Alison Brown

PORT HOPE BRANCH

Annual House Tour – October 3, 1998

As usual, we expect the 38th annual house tour in Port Hope to be sold out. Our volunteer committee, headed by Chris Montgomery, has arranged for eight beautifully restored 19th century homes and the Capitol Theatre to be showcased on this year's tour. Houses are: The Grange on South Street, 71 Augusta Street, Cawthorne House at 64 Augusta Street, St. Mark's Church Rectory at 53 King Street, Penstowe at 98 Ontario Street, Dunbarton Hall at 168 Walton Street, The Coachhouse at 39 Pine Street, and 1 Roseglen Road. Tour headquarters will be the Town Hall and a special tour of the recently restored Capitol Theatre will be included.

Tickets are \$15 each and monies raised are used for the restoration and preservation of our architectural and natural heritage in the Port Hope area. For more information call 1-905-885-2162 or 1-905-885-5790.

Volunteers Honoured

The late Roger Kirkpatrick, a charter member of our Branch and past-president, was nominated for a civic award by our Branch. Roger's sons Doug and George received the award posthumously at a Town of Port Hope ceremony held in February.

Port Hope Branch is blessed with over 200 members, many of whom have been longstanding, active volunteers. This spring the Branch executive nominated six of those hard-working people to receive Ontario volunteer awards: Bob Fair, Glen Tozer, Terry Foord, Don Rungay, Audrey Simpson, and Helen Strathy. Very few were able to attend the award ceremony in Peterborough, so our MPP Doug Galt sent along the certificates and our president, Bob Harrison, presented the awards at our Branch barbeque on June 25th at the Hunter home on Bramley Street.

It is impossible to mention members without saying thanks to our membership chair, Bonnie Walker,

who is tireless in seeking out new members and politely reminding existing members that their fees are now due.

Hudson River Valley Estates Presentation

Frank Kershaw visited Port Hope on May 21st and thrilled about 80 people with a presentation on the historic country estates of the Hudson River Valley. Thanks to Mr. Kershaw's extensive knowledge of the architecture and gardens of the area and his beautiful slides, we were treated to an insider's tour of about 30 mansions, most of which are inaccessible to the public. Heather MacKinnon, our new membership education chair, arranged the event and has another slide show by Daphne Svenningson set up for November 25th.

Heritage Conservation Awards

Two Davids received Heritage Conservation awards at our annual meeting held at the Capitol Theatre in February. The residential award went to David Weir for his excellent restoration work at 85 John Street. David Presson received the Commercial award for the building at the corner of Mill and Peter Streets which was damaged by fire about two years ago. Next time you're in Port Hope drive by these gems and check out the excellent conservation work.

Branch priorities set

Our executive has devoted several meetings this spring to refining our objectives under the broad ACO mandate and producing a budget which reflects our priorities. Leadership in this activity was provided by our president, Bob Harrison, and our treasurer, Mary Trevor. Eight areas of emphasis were defined by the executive and our performance in each area was assessed so that we can better fulfill our mandate. In our budget we have included pledges for restoration of the Skeena building and St. Paul's Church and trees to be planted in the downtown area by the Heritage Business

Improvement Area. These and other projects were identified in our objective-setting session. Trees and areas of natural beauty are a current priority and we have appointed A.K. Sculthorpe to the newly formed Urban Design Committee as our representative.

Doors of Port Hope

A beautiful full-colour poster featuring photographs of the doors of Port Hope by Daphne Svenningson will be available from our Branch this fall. Dale Beale and Daphne have arranged for the production of this poster and sponsorship by Cameco, a local industry. Look for this at our headquarters on House Tour day — October 3rd.

Late-Breaking News:

On August 5, 1998 the Ontario Municipal Board gave final approval to the by-law designating the downtown Port Hope Heritage Conservation District. Thanks to hard-working LACAC members over many years for making this possible.

Sue Stickley ☛

COBOURG BRANCH

Cobourg—the ACO's Newest Branch

The Cobourg Branch of the ACO had its founding meeting on June 23, 1998 in the Citizen's Forum in Victoria Hall. The purposes of the organization as a defender of historic assets and the need for it in Cobourg were explained to an interested audience of thirty-five. The "Cobourg Doors" poster, our branch's first publication, was unveiled. Many people signed membership forms and ACO Cobourg suddenly came to life with a little more than \$1,000 in its treasury.

Our aim is to have an organization performing ACO functions in Cobourg as effectively as they are carried on elsewhere — Port Hope being the inspiring nearby example. The need is clear in Cobourg's sad

record of wasted architectural resources (a recent letter to the Cobourg Star listed 40 important buildings lost in the last 30 years) and in the present threat to structures such as St. Michael's Rectory, the Lydia Pinkham building on University Avenue and the historic 1815 Zaccheus Burnham house.

The ACO would also speak up to protect street trees and walkways. It would take stands against out-of-scale and low quality building in heritage districts. It would make representations to town council when destructive street widenings are proposed. (It could have supported the residents of George Street — now too late! — who wanted their trees saved, their street left unwidened and their power lines put underground.) It would make the case for buildings when their owners desire to turn them into parking lots. With a big enough membership, it could contribute powerfully to the issue of "squaring off" Victoria Park.

Late-breaking News:

At its meeting of August 10, Cobourg Town Council reversed an earlier decision to let St. Michael's Catholic Church demolish its (designated) rectory. This means the town will respond to the Church's appeal of a judgment upholding the town's refusal to issue a demolition permit. A month ago there was no willingness to fight it out at the appeal level, despite the promising nature of the case. The sudden stiffening of spine is almost entirely owing to the research and arguments of ACO member Joanna ter Woort, who provides a splendid example of what an interested and informed citizen can do.

The next urgent project for ACO Cobourg is to save and move the Zaccheus Burnham house, which is not protected by designation and lies in the immediate path of a "big box" development on Hwy #2.* The new purchaser of the property appreciates heritage values but wants a vacant lot to build on. He will donate the building to the town for a museum or other public use. The use is still to be

identified, and funds for relocation must be raised.

* Not to be confused with Barnum House on Hwy #2 in Grafton, the ACO temple of preservation pictured in ACORN's masthead.

Bill Halewood 

QUINTE REGION BRANCH

The Quinte Branch continued its series of third Sunday walking tours during the winter months.

Albert College - February 16th

This largely in-door tour was scheduled at this time in an effort to avoid the vagaries of Canadian winter weather. Those of you who braved last February's tour in Napanee will appreciate what I'm referring to! The tour, attended by 65 people, was led by Bill Walker, a teacher at the school and the current Chairman of Heritage Belleville. We were taken on a complete tour of the older portions of the school as well as recent additions, giving us an interesting contrast between the various types of classroom facilities. The tour also included a visit to the main chapel, the library and the swimming pool and concluded with refreshments, provided compliments of the college and served in the main dining room, Ackerman Hall.

Thanks to Bill Walker for taking the time from a busy Sunday afternoon to lead us on such an interesting and different tour.

Restoration Workshop - March 15th

Again we arranged for an indoor activity. For this "tour" our thought was that, with all the expertise and experience available within our group, it would be interesting to have an information sharing session, highlighted by some presentations from experts in a particular area of restoration. When planning this workshop, we had overlooked the conflict with March break and this had the effect of limiting the possible speaker pool to those of us without smaller children. However, for the fifty or so people who

attended at the Demorestville Town Hall, Dr. John Brisley and Court Noxon gave extremely good talks, illustrated with slides, on their own particular experiences with various restoration projects. The Brisleys have had a lot to do with dismantling and rebuilding frame buildings and had slides showing examples of early construction techniques. One of their current projects is moving the old church at Adolphustown to their property in Sophiasburgh. Because of Court Noxon's experiences as an architect, he had a wide variety of projects to show us as well as some helpful tips on restoration materials.

The workshop concluded with some members displaying pictures of their own restoration work or artifacts found during the course of that work. Thanks to all of those who participated in the workshop, but most of all to Dr. Brisley and his wife Diane and to Court Noxon for their much appreciated efforts.

North East Coleman Ward, Belleville - April 19th

This area of Belleville is largely undiscovered and not as thoroughly researched as other, more prominent, parts of the city. Some 50 people turned out, under somewhat threatening skies, for the tour led by David Bentley. David provided us with excellent historical background on the area, including the fact that while much of the land in the area was originally owned by the Bleeker family, the area was named after Thomas Coleman, who owned a saw and a grist mill on the Moira River near the corner of the present-day Coleman and West Moira Streets. Our tour started at the OBC building and went east on Moira Street to Cameron Street (site of Thrasher's warehouse built in the early 1900s), then on to St. Charles Street (#22 has an ashlar covering over stone), Ridley Street (#59 was built c.1873), Grier Street (#13 is a delightful brick home from the early 1900's) and Grove Street (#49 and #47, both built in 1878, are two excellent examples of different methods of stone construction).

This was an informative tour of an

area largely ignored by us in the past but which contains a wide variety of architectural styles spanning a number of periods of Belleville's history. We thank David for his usual in-depth preparation and stimulating tour.

Heritage Watch

This is a regular feature of our Branch newsletter, designed to highlight buildings that might be considered to be "endangered," particularly those that other members might not be aware of. One of the projects that resulted was a report prepared by one of our members, Ernie Margetson, for the group attempting to save the Orange Hall in Wellington, Prince Edward County. The following is the summary from Ernie's report.

The Orange Hall was built about 135 years ago as a meeting hall/public building. The simple fenestration found in the vertical arrangement of windows, the restrained decoration and the somewhat serious appearance, reflect the original use and indeed the on-going use today. The Hall provides significant historical context to the Village of Wellington and its residents as the first town hall, court room, firehall, and other less glamorous, yet important roles. The use of the upper floor as the Orange Hall and the undeniable connection between the Village forefathers and the Orangemen also brings substantial historical substance to the building, not often seen in other public building designs. The building has gradually become isolated from the remaining downtown buildings which share its street side, and for better or worse, this has left the Hall as an obvious focal point today.

The hall was built as a timber-framed, wood-clad building, most likely set on a foundation of local stone. The structure has survived in reasonably good condition, with the exception of the foundation where the wood structure now makes contact with exterior grade. This is mainly due to the past raising of surrounding grades, including Main Street, and renovations of the first floor. The remaining original

(Quinte report cont'd on page 14)

ERIC ARTHUR COLLOQUIUM

"Conservation in Context: to want a better city . . . passionately"

to be held on
Saturday, November 14, 1998, 10:00 am to 3:30 pm
at
University College, University of Toronto

papers to be presented by

Steven Bell
Dr. Angela Carr

Howard Chapman
Edna Hudson

Alec Keefer
Michael McClelland

Robert Murray
Vincent Tovell

Registration Fee - \$55
(\$50 for ACO Members & UC Graduates)

Includes lunch at UC and admission to the Eric Arthur Exhibition at the Market Gallery, St. Lawrence Market

Colloquium & Gala Dinner Combined — \$110 including a \$35 donation to the ACO
(\$105 for ACO Members & UC Graduates)

advance registration is essential — space is limited
see registration form below

DINNER & COLLOQUIUM REGISTRATION FORM

****advance registration essential — space is limited****

Name: _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone (day) _____ (evening) _____

Gala Dinner Only: @ \$65 per person (incl. a \$35 tax credited donation) No. of people: _____ \$ _____

Colloquium Only: @ \$55 per person (includes lunch at UC) No. of people: _____ \$ _____

Colloquium & Dinner: @ \$110 per person (for non-members) No. of people: _____ \$ _____

@ \$105 per person (for members & UC graduates) No. of people: _____ \$ _____

Note: GST not applicable

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Please mail cheque, payable to Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, to:
Architectural Conservancy of Ontario
Suite 204, 10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, Ontario M5C 1J3

Confirmation by mail or telephone.

**You
Are
Invited
to
Attend**

ACO ANNUAL GALA DINNER

Saturday, November 14, 1998

6:30 for 7:30 PM

at

**The Great Hall
St. Lawrence Hall
King & Jarvis Streets, Toronto**

**with thanks to Heritage Toronto
and the St. Lawrence Market Complex**

This year's Gala Dinner is being held in conjunction with

THE ERIC ARTHUR CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

**Guest Speaker is Bruce Kuwabara
Architect of the current renovation work
at Toronto City Hall,**

**A Modern Masterpiece for which
Eric Arthur was instrumental in
choosing the winning Viljo Revell design**

**Tickets are \$65 per person including a \$35
tax receipted donation to the ACO
(special rate for those attending the
Eric Arthur Colloquium)**

**Advance registration is essential
space is limited**

**Make
it
a
Date**

wood exterior has been clad in assorted metal coverings, resulting in a reasonably weather tight cover, although not overly attractive.

...The building would appear to be surplus to the direct needs of the Village of Wellington at this time, as other public spaces seem very adequate for existing demands. After examining various public, service group, and private use alternatives, it was determined that the preservation and continued viability of the building would best be served by a transfer to a private interest.

It is contemplated that such a transfer would have conditions associated with rehabilitation of the building exterior and time schedules associated with the necessary upgrades. Based upon this premise, we recommend to Council of the Village of Wellington that the building be advertised by tender with appropriate conditions of sale attached. Proposals would be requested from potential purchasers which would be assessed in terms of the requirements as set forth in specifications and conditions of sale.

Further, we recommend that a committee comprised of appointed member(s) of Council and the Orange Hall Preservation Committee review the results of the call for proposals/ tender evaluation, in order to make a final recommendation to Council."

Dan Atkinson 

TORONTO REGION BRANCH

With respect to Branch activities, we have organized several public walks. This is an area with much potential, for although other groups do walking tours, there are many beautiful buildings and interesting areas of the city not yet researched or explored. We have had tours of Holy Blossom Temple in February, St. Michael's College in May, and the Villas of High Park in June.

In Toronto's competitive environment for the interest of people concerned about our built heritage, we cannot afford to relax. But programming presents a challenge always to be both enjoyable and educational, as

well as relevant to the many different levels of interest on the part of participants.

Union Station is still a concern. Our newsletter on the station last summer generated a huge response from ACO members, and we thank all who took the time to show you cared. The timing on such matters is always important. Change to the transportation system, of which Union Station is part, is probably inevitable as the city and province grow; the problem is to ensure that change will enhance things we have already.

The New City Hall is being renovated, and the access to the rotunda redesigned to allow councilors to walk easily between the chamber and their offices.

The Masonic Hall at Yonge and Davenport Streets, which was at serious risk of demolition, has been purchased by CTV and will be used for studio work. Both music fans and heritage enthusiasts have cause to rejoice.

In the megacity that our beloved Toronto has now become, the constituent parts of the LACAC function are not yet allocated. There is a dispute as to whether the problems of heritage should be handled by the same board that handles museums; whether boards are better left to professionals or not. We are convinced that TRAC should be active in the outcome, and therefore we stay involved in the argument. We are the only heritage organization with over sixty years of active involvement in architectural conservation behind us. We find allies wherever we can for our point of view.

Our new publication, *The Romanesque Head Office*, has generated a lot of interest. The old Confederation Life headquarters on Richmond Street, and its evolution to its present form, is discussed in the book in a detail not available before. We look forward in our next report to telling you more about our promotional efforts.

We are proud of our publications, and the difference we are able to make in the heritage and conservation fields. Our best-selling *Kingsway Park*, for

example, is a force on the side of preservation of the architectural community it describes. When public knowledge of the value of architecture is widespread, then that architecture has its best guarantee of survival. Any necessary legislative action will have wide support.

Edna Hudson 

WINDSOR REGION BRANCH

During the last few months, we have had our ups and downs.

Glengarda

The 180-day delay under designation ran out on June 21st and City Council approved the issuance of the demolition permit on the 22nd. However, the developer has said that he does not intend to act on the permit until near the end of the year. As of this writing (June 25th), his new site plan has not been approved and the sales office for the new condominiums has not been opened, although some trees have been cut down to make room for the "sales trailer" and a dumpster is full of building materials removed from the building.

Over the winter, the heat and electricity were turned off, so there has been considerable deterioration of the interior, but nothing that isn't irreversible at this point. There was also evidence of people trying to get into the building and we have noticed several times that windows and exterior doors to the Chapel have been left open. Sometime during the night of June 16th our worst fears were realized when someone broke in and vandalized the interior, smashing toilets, sinks, windows and doors.

We have had several discussions with the Art Gallery of Windsor, but their hands are tied at the moment, as the Ontario Casino Corp. has not indicated whether they wish to purchase the Art Gallery property downtown (currently the home of the temporary casino). Without that purchase, the Art Gallery doesn't have the funds to purchase Glengarda, even if they wanted to.

As there doesn't seem to be the political will to make anything happen with this unique property, we are currently looking for a buyer, or group of buyers, who, at the very least, would "mothball" and secure Glengarda to give us time to pursue other uses of the property.

Art Gallery of Windsor

On March 12, we held a joint meeting with the AGW at Willistead Manor on "Issues of Location and Service to the Public" concerning the Art Gallery. Ted Pietrzak, the former Director of the Art Gallery of Hamilton, spoke very eloquently on the dangers of an art gallery becoming part of "downtown redevelopment." His slides illustrated his presentation very graphically. He stressed that the AGW must do what is best for it — not what some politicians think would be good for downtown. We had over 100 people in attendance!

Norwich Block

The Windsor LACAC (WACAC) and ourselves have made two presentations to City Council (last summer and again this past winter) about this block, the last remaining 19th century commercial block in downtown Windsor. When built, it was considered up-scale for its day. Chrysler Canada has indicated their intention to build their new Canadian headquarters on that block. We should be hearing soon if this will be happening — the developers have spent the past six weeks looking for additional tenants for the development. One of the tenants could be an expansion of our convention centre.

The oldest building on the block is a hotel dating back to 1869; the newest building (Dominion Bank, 1909) is the only example of a marble Beaux Arts building left in Windsor. It looks as though the only part that might be saved is the Bank and even that is very iffy.

Windsor Branch AGM

We held our AGM at Mackenzie Hall on May 27, with Phillip Carter, Chair of the ACO Advisory Board, as our guest speaker. An architect and an urban planner, Mr. Carter gave an

excellent presentation on "New Uses for Old Buildings." He was interviewed on CBC (Windsor) Radio's Morningwatch the next day. He was speaking to the converted, but gave us all plenty to think about. We hope to have him down again — at a time when we will be able to do more advertising and have a larger attendance.

In addition...

We have just recently had a meeting with Joe Colasanti, of Colasanti's Tropical Gardens in Leamington. It is an extensive greenhouse operation in Essex County and Joe is "Mr. Tourism" in this area, both as a businessman and as a tireless volunteer. Joe makes his facility available for many, many fundraising activities over the course of a year. To get to the point, Joe is interested in moving the 112 year-old Leamington Station of the Lake Erie, Essex & Detroit Railway to his property. He already has some track and a caboose. What he wants to find now is an old Pullman Dining Car. If any readers know where one is available, please contact Joe at:

Colasanti Cactus & Tropical Plants
1550 County Road, 3E
Ruthven, ON
Phone: (519) 326-3287

We mounted a membership drive about the same time as the joint meeting with the Art Gallery and are pleased to report that our members have more than doubled. New memberships are still coming in from the mailing three months ago. We have been very gratified by the response and take it as a sign that the public in general supports what we are doing. We are now trying to get people to be more vocal in their support — one step at a time.

We thank everyone who wrote letters to the Windsor City Councilors in support of the conservation of Glengarda. We couldn't have got far without you.

Late-breaking News:

August 14, 1998 — the demolition

of Glengarda has begun. The statue has been taken out of the tower and the asbestos is being removed from the basement. It is expected that the rest of the demolition will proceed in about two weeks. We worked until the last possible moment, trying to find the money to purchase the property, but time was not on our side. The destruction of Glengarda is a loss for the whole city. Thanks again to all those who offered advice and sent letters of support. While the outcome is a sad one, at least we know we tried our best!

August 17, 1998 — the Leamington Station burned to the ground last night. Joe Colasanti is, however, still looking for an old Pullman Dining Car.

Pat Malicki 

SOUTH BRUCE-GREY BRANCH

First Anniversary

As we approach the first anniversary of the founding of the ACO's South Bruce-Grey Branch, friends and members have been invited to join us in Victoria Jubilee Hall (Walkerton), on June 24th. There we will celebrate our anniversary; enjoy refreshments and camaraderie in the newly refurbished Reception Hall; see the other improvements that have taken place at Victoria Jubilee Hall since construction began in November 1997; acknowledge and thank the many people who have made these possible; and elect the branch officers. In addition, we hope to have brief reports on what is happening to the Firehall and Grey-Owen Lodge in Markdale, the Lighthouse Keeper's Cottage in Southampton, and the Lighthouse in Kincardine.

Victoria Jubilee Hall Update

Meanwhile, the Victoria Jubilee Hall Project has appeared as one of 14 case studies in a publication entitled "Sustaining Our Facility Investment." IER Consultants was commissioned by the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation to investigate best practices in sustaining cultural and recreational facilities. The practices

fell into four categories: changing/alternate facility uses; facility life cycles; partnerships and alternate delivery methods; and mobilizing community support. The Victoria Jubilee Hall project was included in the latter category.

Currently, with the structural and roof repairs completed at the Hall, interior work continues thanks to the Job Creation Partnerships program of Human Resources Development Canada. This partnership has allowed the hiring of a renovator and a renovator's assistant, as well as an assistant coordinator, who is helping to organize the management and future financing of the Victoria Jubilee Hall project.

Fundraising Picnic at Stonyground

On June 13 the Branch held a major fundraising event at the well-known Stonyground Garden, just west



From left, Susan Rankin, Douglas Chambers and Mary Robinson Ramsay at Stonyground
Photo: Dan Schneider

of Walkerton. Over 200 people attended this sold-out event billed as a "French Country Picnic." Stonyground has been the subject of a beautiful book, and is a popular destination for garden tours. We are grateful to Professor Douglas Chambers for opening his grounds to us and for an elegant and extremely success-

ful launching of the fundraising for Phase II of the Victoria Jubilee Hall project. The event raised more than \$5,000. Congratulations to Susan Rankin for all her hard work in organizing this memorable day.

Mary Robinson Ramsay ☞

ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVANCY OF ONTARIO HAMILTON REGION BRANCH

ARCHITECTURAL EVENTS AND TOURS 1998



Downtown Core and Gore Park

Sunday September 13, 1998
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

A walking tour of downtown Hamilton.

Meet at the statue of Queen Victoria in Gore Park at King and James Streets.

SUGGESTED DONATION:
TWO DOLLARS

CALL
(905) 308-9790

FOR FURTHER EVENT
INFORMATION AND
CONFIRMATION

Downtown Details Exhibition & Reception

Thursday September 24, 1998
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Reception and lecture sponsored by the Hamilton Society of Architects to celebrate Architecture Week 1998.

This exhibition will highlight several of the beautiful architectural details and art works that enrich downtown Hamilton. They will be presented as large scale photographic reproductions at the Art Gallery of Hamilton throughout the month of September. Internationally renowned urban designer Ken Greenberg will lecture on his work in planning the rejuvenation of the urban centres of cities such as Detroit.

The Art Gallery of Hamilton Community Gallery Space, 123 King Street West. The exhibition will be open throughout September. FREE.

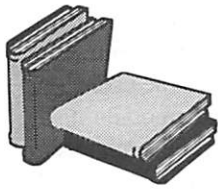
Preserving Hamilton's Built Heritage

Sunday October 18, 1998
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

An illustrated lecture by Nina Chapple followed by the Branch Annual General Meeting.

Nina Chapple is the head of the Heritage Planning Section of the City of Hamilton Planning and Development Department. Ms Chapple will speak about the ways and means of preserving the city's historic architecture by presenting a selection of case studies.

The lecture will be held upstairs at the Dundurn Castle Coach House. FREE.



The Estates of Old Toronto

By Liz Lundell. Toronto: Boston Mills Press, 1997. 176 pages. \$34.95 cloth.

This attractive small book fills a gap in the published chronicles of Toronto, a catalogue of the earliest great homes of the city, Park Lot by Park Lot, coupled with capsule biographies of the prominent men [sic] who built them and lived in them.

In each case the author has managed to cram a significant amount of information into a very small space, resulting in an elegant but compact book which will provide great satisfaction to anyone with an interest in how Toronto got to be the way it is and, particularly, how its streets and areas derived their names.

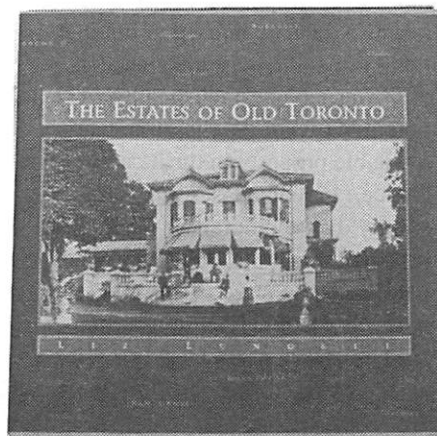
Ms Lundell reaches back to the earliest days of the Town of York, to the establishment of the Province's first Parliament in its new capital by a ruling elite of wealthy men, many returning to civilian life after previous military service, who set to work to create a capital, and erect homes embodying the ostentation and social amenities befitting the lifestyle to which many had been accustomed in England. We learn of their elegant lawns and spacious ballrooms, and imagine the fancy dress balls and other social gatherings, attended by guests who arrived on muddy roads dotted with cows and pigs.

While touching only the surface of the sagas of the familiar names in Toronto history, such as Macaulay, Powell, Boulton, Denison and Jarvis, to name a few, Lundell provides enough detail to whet the appetite for more information about these early builders of the city. Similarly, while the stories of the houses include little

architectural or physical description, the book makes a useful contribution to the architectural history of Toronto by linking the houses, geographically and conceptually, to each other and those who created and lived in them.

A significant achievement of *The Estates of Old Toronto* is its outstanding collection of photographs, paintings and drawings of the early great houses of the city, many of them rarely or never before published. Of particular interest and revelation are photographs which combine some architectural detail of the residence with the images of people connected with the house. Nothing brings back so much the feeling these people had for their homes as to witness them posing with their treasures.

Finding and obtaining high-quality historical photographs is very time-consuming and difficult,



particularly when one is on the trail of what may be the only good representation left of a building long ago destroyed. This collection is a worthy product of such research. It also demonstrates what an asset we have in our various public archives, such as those of the Toronto Reference Library, the City of Toronto Archives and Heritage Toronto.

One wishes that *The Estates of Old Toronto* had more time to spend on the architectural features of the houses and on probing at greater depth the qualities of the homes, their creators and architects, and the character of the occupants that the

architecture served to express.

The Estates of Old Toronto provides a useful record of the class of people and buildings that historians of the time saw fit to write about and record, underlining the fact that these socially prominent people saw value in impressing others with their taste, and perhaps fulfilling some public duty of contribution to the community; also that they had the choice to spend their fortunes on the impressive statements represented by their houses.

For all of the book's positive aspects, the reader experiences a sense of loss at a recurrent final theme. Having seen the beautiful homes, what happened there and how the buildings related to the history of this City, one is continually deflated by last paragraphs, many to the effect that street names are all that is left to remind us of a house long ago demolished.

How sad it is that we in Toronto have so few buildings (under 50) erected before the middle of the 19th century. Time after time, magnificent homes representing the highest architectural standards of the day have disappeared without a trace, ignominiously, the victims of subdivision by departing owners or the extension of the relentless grid system which dominates our urban structure.

We are left with a feeling of emptiness, having reviewed in such short order the life span of so many of the city's pioneers, and the equally short lifetime of the architectural works that they created.

At least we have *The Estates of Old Toronto* to commemorate and honour this significant past. For historians, lovers of architecture, and modern day residents of this great city — and especially for those who like to read obituaries — *The Estates of Old Toronto* makes for a great read.

George H. Rust-D'Eye

George H. Rust-D'Eye is a lawyer with the Toronto firm of Weir & Foulds.



Street Smarts Gets Ready to Hit the Streets

In May, a brochure went out to Ontario communities announcing *Street Smarts — The Town Centre Regeneration Project*. Street Smarts is an exciting new collaborative initiative of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, the Ontario Heritage Foundation and the Heritage Canada Foundation. Street Smarts will respond to built heritage opportunities and problems in town centres of small to mid-sized communities. This project is aimed at getting local people armed with the information, skills, tools and motivation needed to breathe new life into Ontario town centres and to secure new uses for historic buildings. Its purpose is to encourage local citizens to band together to identify and evaluate their town centre's built and social assets; and then to conceive appropriate conservation and economic plans, leading to locally driven projects.

The three partners, along with support from staff of the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation, will provide participating communities with:

- a successful hands-on approach;
- several on-site training sessions;
- real life case studies and tools for implementation;
- training materials and exercises for application;
- ongoing advice and support; and
- links with other communities.

The first batch of participating communities will be selected this summer for start-up in the fall. To be considered in this round, communities must have completed and submitted the situation survey and needs assessment by the end of June.

Street Smarts is a reality because of the support of the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation. Other supporters include the McLean Foundation.

To apply or for further information please contact:
 Stephen Lauer
 Director, Ontario Region
 The Heritage Canada Foundation
 29 Dickson Street
 Cambridge, Ontario
 N1R 1T5
 Telephone: (519) 622-3036
 Fax: (519) 622-1132
 E-mail: hercanon@golden.net

Stephen Lauer

ACO Vacant Heritage Properties Referral System

Long experience in heritage structure restoration and adaptive re-use has made us aware of the depressingly large number of irreplaceable structures lost because they are unused or uninhabited. For some reason the necessary "fit" was never established between a potential owner/purchaser and an available property in the location-of-choice. In many cases this was simply due to ignorance. The property was unlisted, off the beaten path, part of a larger site slated for redevelopment, etc. For examples read any issue of ACORN!

To try to address this problem, it seemed that some sort of referral system using the latest communications technology might be useful. A proposal to explore the possibilities was prepared by Toronto architect Alan Seymour, a member of the ACO Advisory Board. The proposal was endorsed by the ACO Executive and by the members at the Annual General Meeting in April. The hope is that:

- ACO prepare a file of "vacant heritage properties at risk;"
- ACO establish a web site and contract with an Internet Service Provider to go on line in fall 1998;
- ACO list properties on the web site using the ACO computer and update the listings monthly;
- ACO promote the existence of the referral system through print media including ACORN.

The referral system, tentatively called the Historic Architecture Linking Program (HALP), depends on the financial support of members and donors for both its start-up and long-term operation. As a test case, we have prepared a listing for Bellevue in Hamilton (see the full-page listing on page 22).

We invite ACO members to put forward names and locations of other



One of the many vacant historic buildings at risk in Ontario, the Wilton Presbyterian Church of 1872 is for sale. Funds for the repair and restoration of the former Wilton Methodist Church of 1873 down the road (see ACORN XXIII 1) are being raised by the Wilton Women's Institute with help from the ACO. Photo: Nina Reece

vacant properties at risk. Please contact the ACO at (416) 367-8075 (phone) or 367-8630 (fax).

Alan Seymour 20

Ministry to Fund Second Shipley Study

Most of us who have worked to have our history recognized through the heritage designation of important buildings have run into this question: what effect will the designation have on the value of the property? Some people in the real estate industry tell owners that designation will lower the value of their home or business. Because there are some restrictions placed on quick changes to the property, they argue, there will be fewer potential buyers and subsequently a downward pressure on the selling price.

Five years ago, University of Waterloo researcher, Dr. Robert Shipley, undertook a study to systematically test that theory. He found in a survey of two Ontario cities that there was no objective truth to the allegation that heritage designation negatively affected property values. As a matter of fact there was a general rise in the value of designated properties in relation to the trend of real estate prices (see ACORN XXII 1).

The Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation believes this question is an important one and has arranged to support a new and expanded study by the University of Waterloo's School of Planning.

Dr. Shipley's previous research on the values of historic properties is almost the only work of its kind and has been useful to many local architectural conservationists in the province and beyond. That work, however, did not cover all aspects of the property value question. The 1992 data also needed an update reflecting recent changes in the market place. The purpose of the new study is: to provide strong and accurate informa-

tion about the effects of heritage designation and other regulatory measures on the value of properties; and to be a vehicle for focusing and galvanizing community involvement in heritage conservation.

The project is designed to gather information in three ways. In part it will train volunteers in various communities to gather the necessary information. In some cases municipal planning offices or other agencies will be requested to supply the required information. The third method of gathering data involves the use of a student hired by Dr. Shipley as a research assistant. The information collected by these various methods will be analyzed at the University of Waterloo.

There are five specific questions the study will address:

1. What has been the effect of heritage designation on the value of specific properties? This would be an update of the study conducted in 1992 and could cover virtually any community that provides volunteers.
2. What has been the effect of designating a heritage district on the values of properties in the district? One case study will be selected.
3. What is the effect of heritage easements on the values of properties?
4. What is the effect of heritage designation on the time taken to sell a property?
5. What has been the history of the values of older buildings that have been preserved when the properties around them have been developed, especially when the preservation has been a direct result of the application of municipal planning approaches such as density bonusing, site plan agreements or design guidelines?

The study is expected to be completed and the results published by the end of the year.

Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation. 20

Raising Capital Funds

Without government incentives for private-sector repair and restoration of historic architecture, the job of raising the necessary capital funds falls to groups like the ACO.

The ACO, which has taken a leading role in capital fundraising, has helped fill the gap through Branch projects (Victoria Jubilee Hall in Walkerton, for example), Advisory Board reports that give ballpark figures for repair and restoration work, and the projects of unincorporated groups who are allowed to use the ACO charitable number under strict conditions (the Wilton Methodist Church conservation project is a recent case).

To share its accumulated experience among the membership and with the greater heritage community, the ACO presented a workshop on this topic on February 28th. "Raising Capital Funds to Support Heritage Conservation," our third technical workshop, attracted an interesting mix of volunteer practitioners and municipal employees. Attending were: ACO President A.K. Sculthorpe; Branch Presidents Alison Brown (London), Kathryn McGarry (Cambridge) and Mary Robinson Ramsay (South Bruce-Grey and also a member of Walkerton Town Council); City of St. Thomas Alderman Helen Schram; Mary Glendinning, 1998 ACO conference program convenor; Ylva Norvell of the Port Hope Branch; John Jolie and Peter Delanty from the Cobourg LACAC; Susan Bassett representing the St. Catharines LACAC; Don Harris, chair of the Elora LACAC; Vernon Clark of Sarnia representing Community Heritage Ontario; heritage planner Cathy Macdonald from Niagara-on-the-Lake; architect Daphne Van-Ham of UMA Engineering Limited; banker Wayne Mullins who is restoring a mill complex in Northumberland County; Joe Gill from the Friends of Fort York; and

curator Ian Bowering representing the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Historical Society.

There were five workshop facilitators. David Reynolds, President of INAC Services Limited, offered new approaches for finding major-gift donations from government sources, programs that are not specifically geared toward architectural conservation but can be creatively used to include repair and restoration.

Steve Thomas, President of Stephen Thomas Associates, showed how direct-mail techniques can secure general-gift donations from the large base of individuals that a capital campaign needs to complement major-gift donations from government, corporations, foundations, other organizations and individual leaders in the community.

In addition, two studies of capital projects recently supported by the ACO were presented: Pat Malicki,

President of the Windsor Region Branch, reviewed the results of the Walkerville Town Hall fundraising project; and Don Rumgay, chair of the Capitol Theatre Foundation, talked about the ACO's involvement in raising funds for the repair and restoration of Port Hope's Capitol Theatre.

To connect fundraising experience to theory, Paul Dilse, consulting heritage manager for the ACO, discussed a capital campaign model that distinguishes between major-gift and general-gift solicitation. Using lecture, a team-building exercise and brainstorming, he introduced a series of campaign steps, including the case statement, market survey and prospect lists.

The lasting impression of the half-day session was one of cooperative interaction among participants as they shared experiences and learned how others were approaching the same problems. Discussion

continued into break time, with refreshments prepared, donated and served by Mary Glendinning and A.K. Sculthorpe.

Thanks go as well to Ontario Heritage Foundation staff, who provided free-of-charge a fully equipped room in the Ontario Heritage Centre — a very comfortable learning environment for the workshop.

Feedback from the participants was quite positive, with one remarking: "It was the most helpful heritage workshop I have ever attended."

The ACO Executive Committee plans to publish inexpensively a condensed version of the workshop study kit by Heritage Day 1999 so that more people can benefit from the information compiled for "Raising Capital Funds to Support Heritage Conservation."

Paul Dilse ☛



Coming Events

For **Hamilton Region** events, see the advertisement in this issue of ACORN.

Les Amis Duff-Bâby — September 1998. An illustrated booklet celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Duff-Bâby Mansion (1798) is being prepared for publication in time for the Sandwich Festival this September. Copies will be available from Les Amis Duff-Bâby, P.O. Box 7424, Windsor (Sandwich) Ontario N9C 4G1. Cost has yet to be determined.

Port Hope Branch Annual House Tour — Saturday, October 3rd, 1998 — tickets sold out earlier than ever this year!

ICOMOS Canada Annual General Assembly and Conference — October 30th & 31st, 1998 in Port Hope. The theme will be "Community Initiatives: A Vital Resource for Heritage." For information contact ICOMOS Canada in Ottawa at 613-749-0971 or visit the ICOMOS web site (www.icomos.org/canada).

Making the Case for Heritage — How LACACs can promote the case for heritage preservation with governments and communities — Saturday, October 17th 1998 — in the Peterborough Armories. Coffee at 9:30 AM, seminar at 10:00 AM. Presenters: **Marc Denhez** — well-known writer and heritage advocate; **Doug Franklin** — Heritage Canada, on dealing with federal and provincial governments; **Heather Broadbent** — Caledon LACAC; and, **Sascha Armour** — Port Hope LACAC, on working with municipal councils; **Eric Hanson** — Peterborough LACAC, on mobilizing community support. Registration: \$20.00 per person from member LACACs, \$25.00 for non-members — includes lunch. Send registration by letter including your name, address and telephone number and a cheque to Mr. Rick Schofield, Corporate Secretary, Community Heritage Ontario, 24 Conlins Road, Scarborough, Ontario M1C 1C3.

ACO Gala Fundraising Dinner and Eric Arthur Colloquium — Saturday, November 14, 1998 — see the advertisement and registration form in this issue. ☛

News from and about ACO Members

PROMOTING THE ACO

[Editor's Note: To make the ACO better known, Executive Committee members have been participating in the events of other organizations. Have you introduced the aims and activities of the ACO at similar functions? If so, let us know.]

On May 1st, President Mary Angela Tucker attended the ceremony declaring the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton a national historic site.

In celebration of the 30th anniversary of the federal government's Heritage Conservation Program, Consulting Heritage Manager Paul Dilse submitted an ACO poster for a poster session at the Chateau Laurier Hotel in Ottawa, May 9th.

Also on May 9th, Mary Angela Tucker represented the ACO at the conference of the Canadian Association of Professional Heritage Consultants (CAPHC) at Dundurn Castle, Hamilton.

In Toronto on May 21st Executive member-at-large Scott Valens attended a reception marking the launch of a new book on architectural impressions of various cities.

On May 30th, Mary Angela Tucker participated in the conference held by Community Heritage Ontario in Kitchener. ☛

CALL FOR PAPERS

Conserving Historic Industrial Architecture in Ontario

**A Conference to be held in London, Ontario
April 16 — 18, 1999**

Please send a three-sentence summary of the proposed topic to:

**Conference '99
The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario
Suite 204, 10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, ON M5C 1J3**

We welcome submissions on the following topics as they apply to the Ontario experience:

Conversion of Historic Mills, Factories, Foundries,
Warehouses and Concrete Elevators to new
Industrial or Non-Industrial Uses

Conversion of Historic Industrial Buildings to
Working Museums

Conversion of Wartime Industries to Civilian Uses

Preservation of Building Technology in
Industrial Conversion Projects

Conservation of Historic Bridges, Canal Locks, Train Freight
Stations and Airport Hangars Used in Industry

Conservation of Hydroelectric Plants,
Hydro Substations and Dams

Conservation of Historic Houses Containing
Traditional Craft Industries

Conservation of Mill Owners' Houses, Workers' Housing and
Industrialists' Houses Associated with Nearby Industry

Conservation of Historic Company Towns

Initiatives to Conserve Historic Industrial Areas

Historic Architecture Linking Program (HALP)

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario
Referral System for Vacant Heritage Properties at Risk

Bellevue

Beautiful 1850 limestone home set on Hamilton's Mountain (escarpment) brow offering spectacular views of the downtown and Burlington Bay.



14 Belvidere Avenue
Hamilton, Ontario

Nearest Intersection:

Upper Wellington & Concession Streets

Legal Description: Part Lot 3, Plan No. 457

Zoning: Single family **Asking Price:** \$348,700

Taxes: Under review

Services:

septic/sewer	✓
hydro	✓
heat	✓
water	✓

Suggested Uses:

Family home, in-home occupation is allowed (limited to family member who is residing in the building and subject to certain conditions found in the City of Hamilton's by-law 2(2) H (iii).)

Availability: Tender closes 21 September 1998, 11:00AM

Present Owner: City of Hamilton (option to purchase)

Heritage Status: Designated; Heritage Easement condition of sale

For tender package and viewing, contact:

Real Estate Division
City Clerk's Department
City of Hamilton
10 MacNab Street South, Hamilton, Ont.
(905) 546-4500

All other inquiries:

Nina Chapple
Planning and Development Department
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West, 7th Floor, Hamilton, Ont.
(905) 546-3933

Exterior Features:

attractive north, west and east elevations, limestone walls and chimneys, belvedere on third storey, six-over-six double sash windows, arched window on second storey, early 20th century addition to the south.

Interior Features:

3,970 square feet, high ceilings, 6 bedrooms, 4 fireplaces, spacious living room with plaster mouldings, bay window in dining room, sunroom, large kitchen with pantry, hardwood floors, paneling around and below inset windows, third floor belvedere offers a view in all directions.

Site:

located at the bend in the road where Concession St. turns into Belvidere Ave., front façade faces escarpment brow, garden located between front of house and the escarpment, open grounds with a few trees and some bush.

Conservation Work:

structurally sound, some restoration work needed. (With the registration of the Heritage Easement, a municipal revolving loan program will offer an interest-free loan up to \$20,000 repayable over a 10-year period.)

The St. Lawrence Hall congratulates

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario

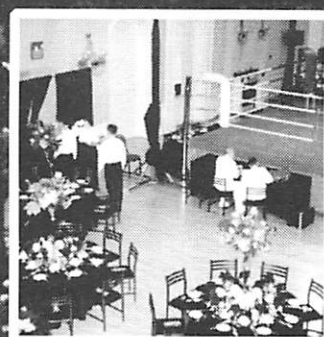
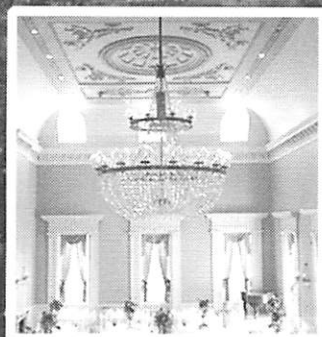
on its 65th anniversary.

Book the St. Lawrence Hall, 157 King Street East at Jarvis (just north of the historic St. Lawrence Market in downtown Toronto), for a unique setting for your next event.

Facilities range from the Great Hall, with its magnificent gaslight chandelier and elegant decor, which can accommodate up to 300 people, to an intimate executive boardroom which seats 12.

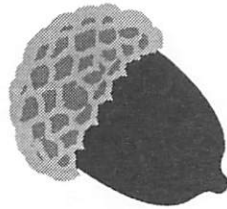
In addition to very competitive rental rates, there is no corkage charge and clients are free to use the caterer of their choice.

Call (416) 392-7130 for information and bookings; fax: (416) 392-0120; e-mail: market@stlawrence.com



If Not Delivered Please Return To:
The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario
Suite 204, 10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, Ontario
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